**Safeguarding and Child protection Policy**

Date of Policy: March 2019 Responsibilty: Kallie Barrington-Light

Review Date: March 2019

As a childminder, I am the lead safeguarding practitioner for my setting.

My first responsibility and priority is towards the children in my care. If I have any cause for concern I will report it to the relevant bodies, following the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) procedures.

The name of our LSCB is The Somerset Safeguarding children board and the LSCB procedures can be found at sscb.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk

I understand that child abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional, neglect, or a mixture of these, and am aware of the signs and symptoms of these.

I must notify Ofsted of any allegations of abuse that are alleged to have taken place while the child is in my care, including any allegations against me, or any members of my family, or other adults or children in my home who have had contact with minded children.

I have read, and understand, the child protection and welfare requirements of EYFS. I have also read the national statutory guidance documents, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 and Inspecting safeguarding in early years, education, and skills settings 2016.

I follow the procedures outlined in my confidentiality policy. I aim to share all information with parents but in some instances (where I am worried about a child’s well-being) I may have to refer concerns without discussing this with you. I work together with parents to make sure the care of their child is consistent – please refer to my Working with Parents policy.

Children will only be released from my care to the parent/carer or to someone named and authorised by them. A password might be used to confirm identity if the person collecting the child is not previously known to me.

Parents must notify me of any concerns they have about their child and any accidents, incidents or injuries affecting the child, which I will record and ask parents to sign.

**Unless I believe that it would put the child at risk of further harm, I will discuss concerns with a child’s parents if I notice:**

* Significant changes in children's behaviour;
* Deterioration in children’s general well-being;
* Unexplained bruising, marks or signs of possible abuse or neglect;
* Children’s comments which give cause for concern;
* Any reasons to suspect neglect or abuse outside the setting, for example in the child’s home;
* Inappropriate behaviour displayed by other members of staff, or any person working with children. For example, inappropriate sexual comments, excessive one to one attention beyond the requirements of their usual role and responsibilities, or inappropriate sharing of images.

**If a child tells me that they or another child is being abused, I will:**

* Show that I have heard what they are saying, and that I take their allegations seriously;
* Encourage the child to talk, without prompting them or asking them leading questions. I will not interrupt when a child is recalling significant events and will not make a child repeat their account;
* Explain what actions I must take, in a way that is appropriate to the age and understanding of the child;
* Record what I have been told using exact words where possible;
* Make a note of the date, time, place and people who were present at the discussion.

**Peer on peer abuse:**

I recognise that children are capable of being abused by their peers. Possible forms of peer on peer abuse may be to situations such as sexual exploitation, gang violence, financial abuse, coercive control and exploitative relationships. I strive for all the children in my care to feel happy and safe. I am approachable and will listen to any child who discloses any worries about their relationships with peers. I will take action, in accordance with the procedures set out by the LSCB.

I will call the local social services’ duty desk for advice and an assessment of the situation. I will follow up this phone call with a letter to the Duty Team within 48 hours. I will record the concern and all contact with Children’s Services there-after

**Female Genital Mutilation FGM**

FGM is illegal in the UK. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the practice is illegal under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003. If I see or am told by a child that they are have had any form of FGM I am legally required to report this to the police. If I suspect that a child may have had FGM or is at risk of being victim I will report my concerns to the LSCB and the Police. I will keep detailed records of communications with all other organisations.

**Forced Marriage**

FM is a specific offence under s121 of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 that came into force on 16 June 2014 and is defined as ‘a marriage conducted without the valid consent of both parties, where duress is a factor’ (’A Choice by Right’ HM Government 2000). If I suspect that a child may be a victim of FM, I will make a written record of my concerns and any disclosures, collect as much information as possible, and report my concerns to the LSCB. I will cooperate fully with other agencies such as Social Care and the Police.

**Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

Child sexual exploitation is a form of child sexual abuse. It occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology. (Working together to safeguard children, Department for Education 2017). Children who are victims of CSE are also at rick of child trafficking, locally, nationally, and internationally.

If I suspect that a child may be a victim of CSE, I will make a written record of my concerns and any disclosures, collect as much information as possible, and report my concerns to the LSCB. I will cooperate fully with other agencies such as Social Care and the Police.

**In all instances of concern, I will record:**

* the child’s full name and address;
* the date and time of the record;
* factual details of the concern, for example bruising, what the child said, who was present;
* details of any previous concerns;
* details of any explanations from the parents;
* any action taken such as speaking to parents.

**It is not my responsibility to attempt to investigate the situation myself.**

**Prevent Duty**

In order for childminders to fulfil the Prevent Duty (Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015), it is essential that they are able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and know what to do when they are identified. Protecting children from risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of childminders’ wider child protection duties and is similar in nature to protecting children from other harms, whether these come from within their family or are the product of outside influences.

As a childcare provider, I will assess the risk of children being drawn into terrorism, including support for extremist ideas that are part of terrorist ideology. The general risks affecting children may vary from area to area and according to age.

I understand that there is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to a terrorist ideology. As with all child protection issues, I will be alert to changes in children’s behaviour which could indicate that they may be in need of help or protection.

The Prevent Duty does not require childcare providers to carry out unnecessary intrusion into family life, but with as with any safeguarding risk, I will contact my local Prevent Team if any behaviour causes concern.

As a childminder, I can also build children’s resilience to radicalisation by promoting fundamental **British Values** and enabling them to challenge extremist views I will provide suitable opportunities which encourage children to respect each other’s views and values, to understand that their views count, and to talk about their feelings. Activities will involve turn taking, sharing and collaboration. Children will be encouraged to understand their own and others’ behaviour and its consequences. They will have an input in creating rules and codes of behaviour. An ethos of total acceptance of all views, faiths, cultures and races will be created, where children will appreciate and respect their own and others’ cultures.

**The Use of Mobile Phones, Cameras and Tablets**

I understand that mobile phones are an everyday part of life for parents and childminders, and with that in mind have laid out my procedure for their use.

* I will ensure my mobile phone is fully charged and with me at all times in case of emergencies.
* I will ensure all mobile phones and tablets are password protected and passwords are changed regularly.
* I have the facility to take photographs on both my mobile phone, camera, and tablet. Photographs of children will only be taken with the parents’ permission. Parents’ consent can be withdrawn at any time by informing the childminder and changing the permissions document.
* Any photographs taken will be deleted from my mobile phone, camera, and tablet after either being sent to parents, uploaded to on online learning journal, or printed for use in your child’s learning journey.
* I will not publish any photographs of your child on any social networking sites or share them with any other person without parents’ permission. Parents’ consent can be withdrawn at any time by informing the childminder and the photographs will be removed.
* I request that you do not use your mobile phone whilst dropping off and collecting your child/children.
* Any visitors to the setting will also be asked not to use their mobile phones.
* If your child has a mobile phone, games console etc. with camera facilities that they wish to bring into the setting, please let me know so that we can work together to ensure the safety of all children in attendance.
* In order to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR 2018) I have registered with the Information Commissioners Office as a data controller to allow me to store digital images and information.

**Whistle Blowing**

In my role as a childminder I have a duty to report unacceptable behaviour to the relevant authorities; including that of assistants who may be working with me, other childminders, childcare workers and other professionals working with children. This action is necessary when their actions are detrimental to children, have placed a child at risk, caused actual harm to a child or are clearly illegal.

I will follow the listed procedure if I suspect any of the above has taken place:

* Identify the bad practice;
* Record exactly what was observed;
* Establish witnesses wherever possible;
* Keep copies of all correspondence and relevant information;
* Seek support from colleagues;
* Ask to be informed about the outcome.

In these situations, I may need to contact the police, social workers, the care inspectorate and any other relevant bodies, then pass on any information known to me.

**Safeguarding Training**

All staff in the setting will partake in update training, at least once a year. This will include:

* Checking online for updated safeguarding information on the NSPCC and Local Safeguarding Children Board websites and reading updated material and online courses.

I will attend a Designated Person for Safeguarding and Child Protection course through my local authority every 2 years.